

Number one, the open Internet and I grew up together (late 70's -) and see no reason it should be turned into merely the latest form of Television by allowing big business to slice it up in their own image.

The Internet has replaced libraries and encyclopedias for me and does so in such a way that the replaced facilities are now pathetic by comparison.

The Internet provides any flavor of external information about the world one cares to look for. We are no longer captive to media outlets and their owners' worldviews. My news sources are the Internet as a whole and Olbermann/Maddow on MSNBC who also present on the Internet. I find a wealth of outstanding information on specialty blogs and subject matter websites. The value of these viewpoints is, as they say in the ad, priceless.

The view on Washington D.C. from the Internet is enlightening and empowering. Why would we want for-profit organizations that lobby our government to have leverage on the availability and content of the Internet?

The Internet provides a much closer correspondence with loved ones, friends, others with shared interests, and businesses of all kinds. I could not have maintained my network in any other manner.

I'm about to ditch my Cable TV service because the Internet carries most of what I'm interested in for TV entertainment and it does a better job too -- Hulu, etc. [Comcast service in Albuquerque, Farmington/Bloomfield and probably the rest of NM, have only gotten worse with the rollout of their new system...]

There's that innovation (i.e. Yahoo, Google, Amazon, Facebook, Hulu, everyman publishing: www.fourmilab.ch, etc.) many seem to think grows on trees or flows freely from commercial interests. Don't be taken in. C-SPAN is about the only example of a commercial interest doing the kind of thing the Internet does All Day, Every Day, Day in, Day out, 24x7x365!

The Internet makes me aware of books I would never have known existed, and my local bricks and mortar, mom and pop bookstores benefit from the resulting purchases when I order these books locally.

The Internet gives me fractional access to publications I wouldn't otherwise have any access to due to cost (e.g. Nature).

We recently discovered Leonid Afremov and his wonderful art. I've purchased quality prints of impressionist masters from the museums in Europe that house the originals! I was able to obtain a large print of a photograph of the first hydrofoil created in 1906 by Enrico Forlanini, underway on Lake

Maggiore in 1911, all because of the Internet.

The access to History and various viewpoints on that history alone makes the Internet invaluable just as it is.

And consider what anyone in the industrial world can learn about our developing energy crisis and potential actions that can be taken! I'm sure I don't need to expand on the singular ability of the Internet to impact human culture such that the coming energy emergency need not maim the human species.

This kind of wealth of knowledge of the world would be unavailable without the Internet which reached this stage of phenomenal capability without the meddlings of corporate magnates looking to build profit-taking bubbles.

More importantly though is the presence of the Open Internet in my childrens' lives. They've never known a time when there wasn't an Open Internet. The Internet is the "free trade" of the information technology world. We suppress this aspect of the Internet at the peril of our children's previously unheard of intellectual/cultural growth and a future in an evolving, open and freely diverse society.

All of this and more will be eroded, possibly even destroyed, if the FCC allows the Commercial Interests with their conflicts of interest to erect barriers to entry/exit as they *repeatedly* vocally state they in fact intend to do. Allowing them to "profit take" of the synergistic culture and momentum of the Internet would be criminal in my eyes and I think history would view it the same way.

Every time one of these CEOs opens his mouth to declare what an Internet user does or does not need to be doing I'm reminded of Ken Olsen, founder and CEO of the former Digital Equipment Corporation:

"There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in his home." (1977)

and Bill Gates of Microsoft Corporation:

"640K ought to be enough for anybody" (1981, in reference to the memory capacity of a PC)

These two gentlemen had no monopoly on cluelessness. Equivalent mindsets exist today in every boardroom of companies seeking a piece of the Internet extravaganza.

Doubt my viewpoint? Remember what TV was expected to do for education shortly after it's invention? That didn't even come close to panning out. Cable Television was supposed to have the

same miraculous positive impact on the education of our population. Didn't even begin to happen.

Corporate Television wants to shutdown PBS everytime the funding comes up for renewal! Why do we even consider giving Big Business any leverage over the content of the Internet? They can't even manage their capacity well! Consider the overbooking of bandwidth that has occurred with the move to broadband technologies, especially in the Cable industry. AT&T gives us another example with their inability to handle the iPhones sold in large cities.

They can't do the right thing. They just continue to sell product they can't provide.

The Internet on the other hand not only has the potential for educational application, educational application has been an outstanding aspect of the Internet for 10-20 years!

Let's not get that third strike and let an Open Internet slip from our grasp. We've bought too many a bill of goods from Big Business as it is. We must not play the sap yet again.

While the Big Business interests aren't royalty like the Mings and the Hapsburgs, they seek to effect the same reining in of diverse growth that those imperialists attempted. These kinds of efforts end badly for all involved sooner or later, and such episodes **must** be bypassed. We've seen that lesson over and over again even before humans invented writing and recorded history.

Apply that lesson now.

All we need from the Internet carriers is for them to provide the Internet backbone infrastructure. They seem to have their hands mostly full with that activity anyway.

We're doing just fine with our flat and open access to our peers, like-minded acquaintances, strangers, and the innovators on the Internet.

There is a "too big to exist" for Internet carriers, ISPs and other heavy-hitters in the business world. Do us all a favor and don't go there...

The Internet was born of a government/academic project that exploded to life in a manner and scale unanticipated by mankind. This communications invention has completely overshadowed the previous high-water mark for flattening information hierarchies -- the printing press.

The Internet has come to be the public communications juggernaut it is in spite of the ongoing efforts over the decades to corral off segments for the benefit of the service providers. The main purposes

being to squeeze every last dime out of the mechanism which includes advancing their usually lame content above others rather than having all content stand toe-to-toe.

These efforts are nothing new and have been with us on the Internet since the arrival of privately operated ISPs and the .com domain. The efforts are also nothing new in that they are standard barrier-to-entry and barrier-to-exit moves by businesses. These barriers are not need or welcome on the Internet!

The Internet *was* neutral before the Telecommunications Act of 1996 fouled things up by moving Internet carriers out of the Common Carrier designation.

This change was to be a great equalizer. Small businesses were to have competitive access to the telecommunications infrastructure. The playing field was to be leveled.

None of that occurred. We are now to be exposed on the Internet to the very activities Phone Companies were barred from engaging in by making them Common Carriers, and by breaking up the Bell System.

Human nature has not fundamentally changed, and so Corporate nature remains the same. Given the opportunity, those who were Common Carriers before will carve up the Internet as quickly as we allow them to. We'll see fiefdoms of mediocre content and crumby service. All one has to do is look at the education curriculum for business students to see the form of butchering the Internet will see.

A robust regulatory barrier between the actions of the Internet Carriers and those who use those carriers to communicate and provide content on the Internet must be reestablished even if that means hearing organizations like the EFF complain about regulation of the Internet.

The Internet can be allowed to resume it's organic evolution, or it can be chopped up and sold to the highest bidders. I ask that it be regulated by keeping the carriers out of everyone else's sandboxes to allow the future unfettered evolution of the medium.

A bunch of new rules aren't needed. Just rolling back failed Telecommunications Act of 1996 changes would be a move in the right direction.